

AF/2813



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

#17/Reply
10/23/01
V. Vannull

is the application of

THEODORE W. HOUSTON

Serial No. 09/346,436 (TI-21004)

Filed July 1, 1999

For: BONDED SOI WITH BURIED INTERCONNECT TO HANDLE OR DEVICE WAFER

Art Unit 2813

Examiner E. Kielin

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

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Sir:

REPLY BRIEF

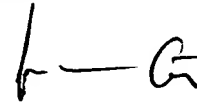
In reply to the Examiner's Answer, the appeal is dropped with reference to claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 18 to 21, 23 and 24, all of the appealed claims with the exception of claims 9 and 22.

With reference to claim 9, it should be noted that the rejection involved in Issue 1 which relates to the rejection of claim 9 is based upon 35 U.S.C. 102(b). This requires that each and every step claimed as well as the function set forth for each step be set forth in the cited reference, namely Hayashi (U.S. 5,087,585). This is not the case for claim 9 which requires that the electrical interconnect structure in the electrically insulating layer contact both the device layer and the substrate. The interconnect structure of Hayashi is the metal pool which does not contact both the device layer and the substrate. This contact is only later made when the refractory metal bump later contacts the metal pool. Accordingly, the order of the steps as specifically claimed in the combination of claims 7 and 9 is not met by Hayashi.

With reference to Issue 2, this rejection relates to claims 9, and 22, the argument presented above with reference to claim 9 applies. As to claim 22, there is no so-called admission in Appellant's APA that it is even known that the oxide will appear in the process as claimed, let alone that it be known to remove such oxide, especially in the environment as claimed. Accordingly, this rejection is not based upon the record.

In view of the above, the appeal remains as to claims 9 and 22 with claims 25 and 26 having been indicated to be allowable. Reversal of the final rejection of claims 9 and 22 is therefore urged that justice be done in the premises.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J-M-C", is written over the typed name.

Jay M. Cantor
Reg. No. 19906
(202) 639-7713